

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 176976  
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TAGS:ECOSOC, WFC, AORG

SUBJECT:ECOSOC POSITION PAPER ON THE REPORT OF THE 4TH  
SESSION OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE(UNEC D-336/78 ADD)

1. THE FOLLOWING, IN STATEMENT FORM, IS SUPPLEMENTED TO  
THE POSITION PAPER PREPARED FOR THIS ITEM.
2. THE UNITED STATES HAS SUPPORTED THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL  
SINCE IT WAS PROPOSED BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN 1974.  
WE BELIEVE, AS DID THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH ESTABLISHED  
IT, THAT A HIGH UN BODY SPECIFICALLY CONCERNED WITH WORLD  
FOOD PROBLEMS, CAN FOCUS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON WORLD  
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PAGE 02 STATE 176976

FOOD ISSUES AND STIMULATE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT  
FOR ACTIONS DESIGNED TO OVERCOME HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

- 3- ALTHOUGH IT HAD ONLY MODEST SUCCESS IN ITS INITIAL  
YEARS, THE COUNCIL HAS SHOWN IN MANILA IN 1977 AND MORE  
RECENTLY IN MEXICO CITY IN 1978 THAT IT HAS A VITAL ROLE TO  
PLAY AND IS PREPARED TO FULFILL THIS TASK. THE IMPORTANCE

OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WAS, OF COURSE, RECOGNIZED LAST YEAR BY THIS BODY, WHICH APPROVED ITS REPORT IN TOTO AND PASSED IT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHERE IT ALSO WAS RECEIVED ENTHUSIASTICALLY AND APPROVED.

4. THE MEXICO DECLARATION OF THE FOURTH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR THE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY OTHER U.N. BODIES TO ACCELERATE FOOD PRODUCTION AND IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE COUNCIL, IN MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ACTION, WISELY NOTED THAT IT RECOGNIZED QUOTE OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A GUIDING FORCE WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ON ALL FOOD MATTERS. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT OPERATIONAL DECISIONS ARE MADE BY GOVERNMENTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FORA WHOSE ACTIVITIES BEAR ON THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND WE SEEK THEIR FULL COOPERATION.UNQUOTE.

5. I SAID WISELY, MR. CHAIRMAN, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THE COUNCIL CAN BEST FUNCTION, AS IT ITSELF RECOGNIZES, AS AN INNOVATOR, AN ENCOURAGER, AND INSTITUTION TO PUSH AND TO PROD WITH ONE AIM--THAT IS, HELPING GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES WITH THEIR TASK OF ELIMINATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. IT PROVIDES A FORUM IN WHICH DIVERGENT VIEWS CAN BE EXPRESSED ABOUT WAYS TO ACHIEVE COMMONLY SOUGHT GOALS, OFTEN RESULTING IN A CONSENSUS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL.  
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PAGE 03 STATE 176976

6. MR. CHAIRMAN, WE BELIEVE THE DECLARATION OF MEXICO IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN THREE RESPECTS: (1) IT IDENTIFIES SPECIFIC ACTIONS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN AND TARGETS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO MEET TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF MALNUTRITION AND ERADICATE DISEASES WHICH AFFLICT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE MALNUTRITION IS MOST PREVALENT. (2) IT CALLS FOR NEW INITIATIVES BY THE WFC BUREAU AND SECRETARIAT TO FACILITATE THE EFFORTS OF INTERESTED FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE FOOD STRATEGIES, WHICH MAY ELICIT SUPPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. (3) IT CALLS ON THE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT TO WORK WITH DONORS, RECIPIENT COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS TO BETTER IDENTIFY THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS WHICH NOW INHIBIT A GREATER FLOW OF RESOURCES TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTORS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT CALLS FOR THE SECRETARIAT TO REPORT TO THE 5TH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSION ON THE RESULTS OF THESE THREE SEPARATE CONSIDERATIONS.

7. MR. CHAIRMAN, PROMPT FOLLOW-UP ON THESE THREE ELEMENTS

OF THE DECLARATION WILL DO MUCH TO EASE HUNGER NEEDS OF THE WORLD'S POOREST PEOPLE. POLITICAL WILL CERTAINLY WILL BE NECESSARY TO OVERCOME MANY OF THE OBSTACLES OF LONG STANDING. AS THE COUNCIL FURTHER SAID IN THE DECLARATION "THE IMPORTANT FOOD PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED WITHOUT ASSIGNING GREATER POLITICAL PRIORITY TO FOOD AND WITHOUT AGREEMENTS

BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES TO UNDERTAKE JOINT OBLIGATIONS TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS."

8 IN MEXICO CITY, NOT ALL GOVERNMENTS WERE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH SOME INDIVIDUAL PARTS OF THE DECLARATION. PERHAPS NO GOVERNMENT WAS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE FULL TEXT. NEVERTHELESS, GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZE THAT THE IM-  
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PAGE 04 STATE 176976

PROVEMENT OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY REQUIRES MUTUAL COMPROMISES. IN THIS SPIRIT, WE WOULD URGE ADOPTION OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL REPORT, INCLUDING THE MEXICO DECLARATION. WE BELIEVE THE REPORT SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THIS BODY.

9. WE THINK THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL TO DATE AUGURS WELL CONCERNING ITS FUTURE POTENTIAL. IT HAD A LARGE HAND IN STIMULATING AND EFFECTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IFAD, THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH HAS DOLS 1 BILLION IN FINANCING CAPITAL TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCITON IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; IT ENCOURAGED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL FOOD EMERGENCY RESERVE WHICH NOW HAS ATTAINED OVER 80 PERCENT OF ITS TARGET AND IT PROVIDED INITIATIVE FOR ACCELERATED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HUMAN NUTRITION.

10 MUCH OF THE COUNCIL'S SUCCESS MUST BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE ENERGETIC AND DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP OF ITS PRESIDENT ARTURO TANCO, AND TO DR. JOHN HANNAH, THE COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHO WILL RETIRE SHORTLY. GOVERNMENTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE INDEBTED TO THESE MEN FOR THEIR VALUABLE WORK IN BEHALF OF HUMANITY.

11. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM HAS APPOINTED MR. MAURICE WILLIAMS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1 AND OF THE ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENT OF MR. SALAHUDDIN AHMED AS HIS DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. WE THINK THESE MEN, WITH THEIR WIDE EXPERIENCE AND DEEP DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF OVERCOMING WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS, CAN EFFECTIVELY CARRY ON THE WORK OF THE WFC SECRETARIAT. TOGETHER WITH PRESIDENT  
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PAGE 05 STATE 176976

TANCO, WHO HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED HIS ABILITY, WE ARE  
ASSURED OF THE LEADERSHIP WHICH THIS VITAL UN BODY WILL  
NEED TO FULLY MEET ITS MANDATE IN THE YEARS AHEAD. CHRISTOPHER

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